

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D. C. 20505

DDI- 04733/86

17 OCT 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Charles F. Scanlon, USA
Assistant Deputy Director for Estimates
Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: The Force-Trends Data Base Memorandum of Understanding

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1. Our meeting on 26 September helped to focus my attention on the issue of the Force-Trends Data Base Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and paved the way for our signing the MOU. I look forward to continued cooperation in such areas of mutual interest.

2. We realize, of course, that there are substantive issues at stake as well as the technical problems of data transfer. We, as well as you, recognize the "solution" requires a management commitment (Attachment A). I want to assure you that we are committed to working with your people to make the data transfer problem disappear while also improving the substantive quality of our analysis by providing high quality force-trends data bases.

3. Based upon our discussion, I believe it is not necessary for us to wait upon a formal signing to initiate cooperative efforts. I have appointed [redacted] the Agency's senior point of contact for overcoming technical (for example, software and data transfer issues) problems, coordinating the transfer of DI force-trends data bases to and from DIA,

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[redacted] In this capacity, [redacted] is prepared to work with you and your representatives to implement the goals and see that we in the Directorate of Intelligence (DI) fulfill our responsibilities, as outlined in the MOU.

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4. I believe we need to get cooperative efforts under way as soon as possible so that we can coordinate the data bases already created [redacted] if your people are interested). Both agencies should have coordinated data to respond to the increasing number of requests we receive for this information. I am requiring [redacted] to report to me by the end of this month on the progress of the MOU, development within the DI of the data transfer software, coordination of existing data bases, data exchange schedules, and a schedule for further cooperative data development efforts.

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SUBJECT: The Force-Trends Data Base Memorandum of Understanding

5. You and your people should feel free to call [redacted]
for any additional details or assistance you may need.

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[redacted]
Deputy Director for Intelligence

Attachments:

A. Background on Force-Trends

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DI/OIR/PDD/PMB/[redacted] (15 Oct 86)

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Background on Force-Trends

This summarizes how the DI will solve the "data transfer problem" and provides a schedule for accomplishing that task.

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1. Making the Software Solution Work. We are committed to making the "software solution" work, that is, providing for easy transfer of force-trends data back and forth between the two agencies. We realize, of course, that there are substantive issues at stake, as well as the technical problems of data transfer. Final coordination of substantive issues will require a commitment from the first line managers from both agencies to the concept of a coordinated data base. Additionally, there are still some details of data structure that need to be resolved. Nonetheless, we will get started on developing the conversion between LION and the Nomad-based data structure later this month. We expect this conversion to take about one to two man-months of software development time, and should be completed early in 1987. We also expect that we will need about two man-months per country to make the match between DIA and CIA units. We plan to use contractors to accomplish this task. Our plan is to contact DIA personnel on an "as required" basis to work out technical details and the remaining data structure issues. Upon completion, we will send DIA a data base in DIA's format and accept a data base of DIA's choice to see if we can load it into LION. Almost certainly, some problems will surface during this period, but we have sufficient resources to handle such problems.

a. Management. Recognizing that there is a blend of technical and substantive problems that must be overcome, the first step has been to define responsibility for the implementation of the MOU. Because the solution requires management attention, both agencies must assign responsibility to appropriate managers and senior analysts, who will insure the commitment of the necessary technical support personnel.

[redacted] the Agency's senior point of contact for overcoming technical (e.g. software and data transfer issues) problems. In this area, he will act as the DDI's representative. [redacted] as the FORCES Program Manager, also is prepared to help Third World analysts in both agencies identify and resolve substantive problems, and to advise management of unresolved issues that need attention. He has substantive resources [redacted] to assist analysts develop and coordinate the Third World data bases, relieving both CIA and DIA analysts of the majority of the data development burden.

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b. Technical. We already have a prototype Nomad-based FORT/GFTD data structure solution we believe will work to transfer data between our mainframe and DIA's M204-based system. Of course, only the successful transfer of data will prove that technical difficulties have been overcome. We see two critical areas, conversion from LION to Nomad (and Nomad to LION) and agreement on data structure aggregation rules (where one side calls for more detail than the other).

-- Software: We have two options for data transfer between Nomad and LION. We prefer the first option, and will pursue it. We intend to develop new software--a new LION module--to exchange data between LION and Nomad. This would provide for full, two-way transfer between DIA's M-204 and CIA's LION-based systems. We could also modify existing software designed to format data for transfer to PA&E from LION into a Nomad data base in the FORT/GFTD structure. This would allow passage of data from CIA to DIA and DIA to CIA, but would not provide for transfer back into the LION format, however.

-- Data Structure: The adoption of a simple rule would solve the data structure "aggregation" issue. Each party should agree to transfer and maintain the lowest level of aggregation desired by either. Each agency can aggregate at higher levels for its own uses.

2. Schedule. We propose that coordination with DIA begin this year with at least the completed [redacted] data base, now under development. We also invite DIA's coordination of other existing data bases [redacted]

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[redacted] Finally, we invite DIA's participation in scheduling other countries for data development. [redacted]

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Office of the Deputy Director for Intelligence

15 October 1986

NOTE TO: DDI

SUBJECT: Letter to General Scanlon

Attached for your signature is a letter,
drafted by OIR, to General Scanlon explaining
our plan for solving the Force-Trends data
transfer problem. The letter looks fine to me.



~~EA~~/DDI

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